



Bulat Makhmudovich Galejev (1940-2009)

Headed "Prometheus" Student's Design Office for 30 years. After reorganisation of "Prometheus" SKB into NII "Prometheus" for experimental aesthetics, he was elected director of the Institute being corresponding member of AN RT.

B.M. Galejev is author of 15 monographs and hundreds of articles on history, theory and technology of light-musical synthesis and other art forms born by scientific and technological revolution epoch. He is also the author of 20 inventions. He was a member of the Russian Academy of Humanities, Ph.D., professor, participant of many international symposia and festivals of modern art, member of the International Society of Art, Science and Technology. He took part in working for "Leonardo" and "Languages of Design" magazines on their international editorial boards, devoted to "art+science+technology" problems.



Leon Theremin was born at the end of the 19th century, died at the end of the 20th. Best known for the electronic instrument that bears his name, although his research helped protect the Kremlin and as an agent of the 'organs' (as the intelligence agency in the USSR was known) he created extraordinary security and listening devices. In the USA he became a musical celebrity, mixing with the cream of the musical elite and that of society. He was also arrested and disappeared into Stalin's labour camps.

".....Art and secret technology, war and peace, applause from enraptured halls, the silent rooms of the Lyubyanka (KGB office building) – a complete union of black and white, good and evil, this duet between Faust and Mephistopheles, accompanied him all his life, a life in which the whole complexity of our own frenzied and beautiful world is reflected, as in a drop of water."

"Yes, his fate was....like a fairy tale. A pioneer of electronic art, he invented the first electronic musical instrument really worthy of the name, the 'thermenvox' (Termen's voice), or the theremin; he was one of the first people in Russia to make a study of television, and of electronic protection systems, to research gravitational waves, and problems of longevity and immortality. Along the way he had meetings with Lenin, Rockefeller, Voroshilov, Charlie Chaplin, Albert Einstein and Sergei Eisenstein, Sergei Tupolev and Beria, with Bernard Shaw and – forgive me here - the author of this story. How can all this have been fitted into the confines of one lifetime, along with perspicacity of mind, and a pure blue, dove-like frankness and childlike clarity of look?.....Even the account that I am undertaking to give here cannot pretend to be a full one. It is simply my own personal, I repeat, personal attempt to understand it all from closer in. We were acquainted for many years, and I am proud to have known such a man..."

1995, Bulat Galejev, SOVIET FAUST

SOVIET FAUST

★ BULAT M GALEJEV

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SOVIET FAUST

LEV★THEREMIN
PIONEER OF ELECTRONIC ART